



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

CIVIL SOCIETY: MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT
Annual Progress Report
April 4 – September 30, 2016

October 28, 2016

Cooperative Agreement Number AID-367-A-16-00007

Project Start and End Date: April 4, 2016 to April 3, 2021

Submitted to: Krishna Pathak, Agreement Officer's Representative
USAID

Submitted by: Bishnu Sapkota, Chief of Party, Civil Society: Mutual Accountability
Project
FHI 360
GPO Box 8803, Gopal Bhawan
Anamika Galli, Baluwatar, Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel: 977.1.4437173
Email: bsapkota@fhi360.org

This document was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by FHI 360. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

Table of Contents

1. INTRODUCTION.....	4
2. CONTEXT	4
3. PROGRESS OVERVIEW.....	7
3.1 SUMMARY OF OUTPUTS AND RESULTS ACHIEVED (APRIL 4 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2016)7	
3.2 PROGRESS AGAINST OBJECTIVE WISE TARGETS	8
4. ACTIVITY PROGRESS	11
4.1 STARTUP ACTIVITIES	11
4.1.1 MOBILIZATION: PERSONNEL AND PROJECT OFFICES.....	11
4.1.2 DEVELOPMENT AND SUBMISSION OF DELIVERABLES.....	13
4.2 PROGRESS ACHIEVED TOWARD PROJECT OBJECTIVES	14
4.2.1 OBJECTIVE 1: STRENGTHENED ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY AND MEDIA.14	
4.2.2 OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVED CIVIL SOCIETY AND MEDIA CAPACITY FOR EFFECTIVE POLICY ADVOCACY AND GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT	18
4.2.3 OBJECTIVE 3: IMPROVED CITIZEN AWARENESS AND USE OF AVAILABLE GON SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS.....	20
4.2.4 OBJECTIVE 4: STRENGTHEN ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF CSOs WORKING IN USAID PRIORITY SECTORS TO ADVANCE LOCAL SOLUTIONS	29
5. CROSS CUTTING INTERVENTIONS	29
5.1 GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION	29
5.2 YOUTH ENGAGEMENT.....	30
5.3 USE OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION, AND MOBILE TECHNOLOGIES	30
6. COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION.....	30
7. MONITORING AND EVALUATION.....	31
8. ACTIVITY PROGRESS SUMMARY	36
9. PRIORITIES FOR YEAR 2 (OCT 1, 2016 – SEP 30, 2017)	36
10. SUCCESS STORY	37
11. CHALLENGES AND MITIGATION MEASURES.....	37
12. LESSONS LEARNED	38
13. ANNEXES.....	39

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AOR	Agreement Officer's Representative
CAG	Content Advisory Group
CS:MAP	Civil Society: Mutual Accountability Project
COP	Chief of Party
CR	Community Reporter
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
EA	Equal Access
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GoN	Government of Nepal
GEC	Grants Evaluation Committee
ICNL	International Center for Not-for-Profit Law
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IVR	Interactive Voice Response
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NRA	National Reconstruction Authority
OCA	Organizational Capacity Assessment
PMELP	Performance Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan
PPWG	Public-Private Working Group
RFA	Request for Applications
RLG	Radio Listener Group
SMS	Short Message Service
SSMK	Saathi Sanga Manka Kura
SWC	Social Welfare Council
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VDC	Village Development Committee

1. Introduction

The Civil Society: Mutual Accountability Project (CS:MAP), implemented by FHI 360, in partnership with Equal Access (EA) and the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL), aims to foster a more legitimate, accountable, and resilient Nepali civil society that is capable of advancing the public interest. It will achieve this by accomplishing four objectives, while incorporating Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) across all project activities:

1. Strengthened enabling environment for civil society and media;
2. Improved civil society and media capacity for effective policy advocacy and government engagement;
3. More coordinated and effective civil society and media oversight of public resource use and public service delivery;
4. Strengthened organizational capacity and sustainability of selected civil society organizations (CSOs) working in USAID priority sectors to advance local solutions.

2. Context

CS:MAP began its operations in the context of post-Constitution promulgation and ongoing 2015 earthquake recovery efforts. Both the implementation of the new Constitution and recovery efforts have been slow-moving with implications for the national-level policy context, in particular the implementation of the new federal system and election at the local level, and the operational context in CS:MAP target districts.

In August 2016, a new government was formed, led by Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal, chairperson of the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist Center. The new government is backed by Nepali Congress (the largest party in parliament), constituents of the United Democratic Madhesi Front, the Federal Alliance and a few other smaller parties. The government has asserted that implementing the Constitution will be a top priority. Meanwhile, those affected by the 2015 earthquake are still awaiting help to rebuild their lives amidst political uncertainty arising from frequently changing governments, and political parties' lack of focus on the issue. In this changed context, the Nepali civil society has an augmented scope to engage with the government and citizens to advance the public interest.

National-level policy context: The issue of demarcation of provincial boundaries and nomenclature for the new federal provinces has been at the forefront of delays in implementing a key aspect of the Constitution. Ethnic Madhesis, Tharus, and Janajatis, especially in the southern Tarai belt, continue to contest the Constitution on grounds that the process of Constitution drafting was not inclusive and that the final document fails to guarantee their rights. The issue of provincial boundaries is at the core of their demands. The resolution of these issues is imperative to holding constitutionally mandated elections at three levels – national, provincial and local. There is uncertainty but it is still possible that local elections may take place in April/June 2017. The election for the Provincial Assemblies is expected to occur in November 2017, and the national election for the Legislature-Parliament by February/March 2018.

Approximately 300 laws need to be revised and more than 138 new ones need to be drafted to effectively implement the Constitution (*as per the press release of Ministry of Law, Justice and Federal Affairs, July 20, 2016*), but this undertaking is moving slowly. In its annual budget

speech, the Government of Nepal (GoN) declared that it would table 138 bills in Legislature-Parliament this year. As part of this process, the government's Social Welfare and Development bill will repeal the Social Welfare Act of 1992. The Ministry of Home has also asked the Nepal Law Commission to draft an Association Registration bill, which will repeal the Association Registration Act of 1977. CSOs in Nepal have expressed their dissatisfaction with the proposed provisions in the Social Welfare and Development bill, specifically as they relate to the structure of the Social Welfare Council (SWC); the budget ceiling for software and hardware interventions; the SWC's role in non-governmental organization (NGO) staff selection and codes of conduct; and NGOs' financial obligation to the SWC's monitoring.

In February 2016, the GoN tasked a high-level committee with the review of the existing media regulatory framework to ensure harmony with constitutional provisions and compliance with international standards. While the committee itself included women, representatives of indigenous groups, and representatives from various political and ethnic groups, the process of ownership and endorsement of the draft policy has not included stakeholder participation. On July 22, 2016, the government approved the draft policy in haste during a meeting of the Council of Ministers. Although the Ministry of Information and Communications has not yet officially published the draft Mass Media Policy on its website for public review, committee members have made it available for public reading. The draft policy proposes some concrete steps in closing gaps that currently exist in the media regulatory framework, including categorizing radio as community, commercial, and public service broadcasters; developing the media sector as an industry in its own right; and developing multiple institutions with regulatory, oversight, and professional and cultural development mandates. Nevertheless, the ambiguous nature of the provisions casts doubt on whether these will be honestly interpreted and translated into Acts, or if the proposed regulatory mechanisms will function independently.

The relationship between the GoN and civil society and media organizations has been particularly tense due to what is perceived as the GoN's attempts to curtail civil society and media freedoms. For example, media and civil society groups, including the International Federation of Journalists, widely opposed the issuance of the Online Media Operation Directive 2016 promulgated in June 2016. The government justified restrictive provisions to discourage 'inappropriate and prohibited material' from being published through online portals. One such provision allows the government to shut down online portals that failed to register or renew registration periodically. Given widespread perceptions that the Directive contravenes the constitutional guarantee for 'Press Freedom,' and following widespread demand to scrap the Directive, the Ministry of Information and Communication formed a three-member task force in June 2016 to amend the Directive.

Similarly, in August 2016, Press Council Nepal's proposal to introduce a mandatory licensing examination for journalists led to a lively debate on social media. While those that argue for the proposal see merit in ensuring that journalists are qualified, most others see the convening of the examination by a government body as an attempt to curb journalistic freedom and creativity. Akin to other attempts at regulation of the media sector by the GoN, Press Council Nepal's proposal remains contested. Finally, in an event condemned by local, regional and international media and civil society organizations, the South Asia Trust announced the closure of 'Himal South Asia' – a lone beacon of cross-border journalism operating out of Nepal for the past 29 years – citing non-cooperation by regulatory agencies in Nepal.

These events point to the need for concerted advocacy by the media and civil society as well as constructive engagement between the GoN, civil society, and media, to ensure that civic space remains open and that the public, especially women and marginalized groups, play an active role in policy reform; have greater access to information; and receive enhanced coverage of their issues in the media.

Context in the earthquake-affected districts: Citizens in the 14 earthquake-affected districts are still struggling to rebuild their lives. The government and international humanitarian partners faced great challenges in providing relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction after the earthquake, revealing the need for elected local officials to ensure effective service delivery and the best use of available resources. The National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) has delivered some results – for example, releasing the first installment of housing grants – but has fallen short in disbursing timely relief and support. The NGO coordination section within SWC asserts that approval authority lies within SWC jurisdiction and that the NRA's role is to only facilitate implementation of such projects. The ensuing dispute between the SWC and NRA over final reconstruction project approval authority has resulted in confusion among implementing NGOs and international NGOs (INGOs), duplication in approvals, and delays in reconstruction work. There is also a greater need for CSO-media cooperation in providing accurate information about relief and reconstruction work.

Context in the Western districts: CS:MAP target districts in Western Nepal are impacted by gridlock at the national level and the resulting uncertainty over the rollout of the Constitution. The government has given a new mandate to the Local Bodies Restructuring Commission, which is likely to result in increasing the number of local bodies (including Municipal and Village Councils) from 565 to around 700. A number of political parties have already expressed their displeasure with how the Commission has proposed to delineate 565 local bodies), which were created based on principles enshrined in the Constitution, Nepal's geographic and population dynamics, available economic resources, and the level of authority and responsibilities that may be assigned to local bodies. Opponents contend that the reduction of administrative units (from over 3,000 village development committees (VDCs) and 217 Municipal authorities to a smaller number of governing bodies (around 500-600) will be impractical and insufficient to ensure access to public services and resources. Nepal's three major political parties recently discussed the idea of using the country's former 927 *ilakas* (units within districts) as local level government, and the cabinet has reflected the same in its renewed mandate to the Commission.

Political parties also remain divided on the choice for provincial capitals – another potentially contentious issue. Assuming that the process of reconfiguration, demarcation and local elections occur as planned, CS:MAP will need to align its activities with the reconfigured administrative units. Moreover, some districts in the Far-West and Mid-West regions, including Kailali, Kanchanpur, Surkhet and Dang, are at the center of the contested boundaries issue, and are vulnerable to long-standing ethnic and other identity-related tensions. Conflicts between supporters of a separate Tharuwat province, and those advocating for a United Far-West Province could emerge, impacting CS:MAP activities at the sub-national level.

In addition to this, government representatives at the local level still have a limited understanding of the concept behind and role of CSOs. Government officials are not willing to

give much space to CSOs to work as monitoring bodies in various districts. There are also critical gaps between the civil society and media, both at the national and local levels, in understanding each other's roles as watchdogs in a democratic system.

3. Progress Overview

3.1 Summary of Outputs and Results Achieved (April 4 – September 30, 2016)

- CS:MAP is staffed with the exception of two positions: the Finance Manager and a Grants Officer to be based in Kathmandu. The team expects to fill these positions by October 17, 2016.
- CS:MAP held project launch events in Kathmandu and Nepalgunj with government, parliamentarians, civil society, and media stakeholders.
- The CS:MAP satellite office in Nepalgunj was operationalized in June.
- CS:MAP timely submitted key deliverables to USAID for review, all of which were approved. These included: Year 1 and Year 2 Work Plans; Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan; Communications Plan; Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan; and the first Quarterly Performance Report.
- ICNL completed its interviews with civil society and media organizations as part of its research into Nepal's legal framework for civil society and the media.
- With assistance from FHI 360, ICNL held a two-day Stakeholder Conference in September 2016 entitled, "The Legal Framework for Civil Society and the Media: Challenges and Opportunities."
- CS:MAP issued open calls and formed evaluation committees to identify and select partners for the Strengthen the Enabling Environment grant program and Intermediary Service Organizations (ISOs) to provide capacity-building support to district-based organizations.
- CS:MAP partner Equal Access selected and signed *Sajha Boli* and *Sathi Sanga Manka Kura* (SSMK) broadcast contracts with an additional 20 local FM radio stations (generally referred to as broadcast partners) based within the 34 project districts.
- The project organized one Content Advisory Group (CAG) meeting for the central level and 20 CAG meetings for the local level *Sajha Boli* radio programming; a total of 136 individuals representing the government, media and civil society organizations participated in these 21 meetings.
- CS:MAP organized and conducted one five-day training for 20 participant radio program producers from the 20 production partners.
- CS:MAP organized and conducted one five-day training for 34 Community Reporters with the aim of collecting community voices for incorporation within the *Sajha Boli* radio episodes.
- The project produced two central level episodes of *Sajha Boli* and broadcast these over Radio Nepal and the 40 partner FM radio stations.
- The project produced sixty local level episodes of *Sajha Boli* and broadcast these over the 40 partner FM radio stations.
- CS:MAP designed and launched an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) questionnaire to solicit feedback on the preliminary *Sajha Boli* episodes.

- CS:MAP designed and launched a youth SMS/IVR poll to gauge youth understanding of the concept and role of CSOs and knowledge of existing social accountability mechanisms.
- The project produced two youth-targeted SSMK episodes and broadcast these over Radio Nepal and the 40 partner FM radio stations.

3.2 Progress against objective wise targets

Results anticipated in this Work Plan period	Results achieved in this Work Plan period
<i>Objective 1: Strengthened enabling environment for civil society and media</i>	
Existing CSO and media legal frameworks analyzed through a rapid assessment to identify shortcomings vis-à-vis international standards and best practices (Result 1.1);	ICNL completed approximately 30 key informants interview with civil society and media organizations as part of its research into Nepal's legal framework for civil society and the media.
Rapid assessment findings on strengths and opportunities shared with GON, civil society, and media stakeholders to solicit feedback and engage stakeholders in dialogue around policy reform (Result 1.1);	With assistance from FHI 360, ICNL held a two-day Stakeholder Conference in September 2016 entitled, "The Legal Framework for Civil Society and the Media: Challenges and Opportunities." In the conference, the initial findings of rapid assessment were also shared.
Stakeholder deliberations result in recommendations to be incorporated into a report that will inform advocacy under CS:MAP Objective 1 grants (Result 1.1);	The stakeholder deliberations helped identify additional issues and challenges related to Nepal's legal framework and self-regulatory schemes for civil society and the media. The results of the desk research and stakeholder consultations in and outside of Kathmandu into a comprehensive report in Quarter 2 of Year 2. The report will serve to guide advocacy initiatives by 5-10 grantees identified by CS:MAP through an open call (Activity 1.1.3).
An open call launched to identify 5-10 CSOs and media organizations to implement advocacy projects focused on improving legal and regulatory frameworks impacting civil society and media (Result 1.1);	CS:MAP issued open call and formed evaluation committee to identify and select partners for Strengthening the Enabling Environment grant program. CS:MAP envisions signing grants with the successful organizations in December 2016.
Research firm identified to conduct a survey to: 1) gauge public perceptions of civil society's and media's role; 2) assess	CS:MAP initially aimed to identify a local research firm to conduct an opinion poll in September 2016. However to expand the

confidence in transparency, effectiveness, and governance; and 3) measure the extent to which women and minority groups feel civil society and media represent them (Result 1.2);	scope of the Survey and to inform values for additional indicators in its M&E Plan, the process was delayed for couple of weeks and the open call was announced on September 23, 2016. CS:MAP plans to start this assessment in mid-December 2016 and conclude it by the end of March 2017.
An open call launched to identify a CSO Coalition and a Media Coalition to lead improvement of CSO and media self-regulation practices, respectively, through development and enforcement of governance standards including codes of conduct, institutional governance and others (Result 1.3).	CS:MAP issued open call and formed evaluation committee to identify and select partners to support a CSO Coalition and a Media Coalition for Strengthening the Enabling Environment for CSOs and media. CS:MAP envisions signing grants with the successful organizations in December 2016.
Objective 2: Improved civil society and media capacity for effective policy advocacy and government engagement.	
An open call issued through the Policy Advocacy, Government Engagement, and Oversight RFA to select 20 district-based CSOs and media organizations working across USAID priority sectors (Result 2.1);	The issue date initially selected for the Advocacy, Government Engagement, and Oversight RFA coincided with the holiday season in Nepal. To ensure a broad pool of applicants, FHI 360, in consultation with USAID, decided to delay the call and issue it immediately after the holidays. The draft RFA was prepared and submitted for approval, and will be published within October 2016.
An open call issued to select 4-7 ISOs with expertise and capacity in CS:MAP technical areas (i.e., advocacy and oversight, GESI, research, organizational development, media) to serve as the project's capacity building service providers to 20 district-based CSOs and media organizations (Result 2.1);	CS:MAP issued open call to identify and select partners for selecting Intermediary Service Organizations (ISOs) to provide capacity-building support to district-based organizations.
FHI 360's Advocacy Readiness Index and Advocacy Toolkit are tailored to the Nepali context and CS:MAP needs in preparation for advocacy capacity building trainings for 20 CSOs and media organizations (Result 2.1).	CS:MAP's Capacity Building team has reviewed FHI 360's Advocacy Readiness Index, and began tailoring it to the Nepali context with inputs and suggestions from international expert Mr. Nebojsa Radic, who helped design and implement this tool on other FHI 360 civil society strengthening projects.
Objective 3: More coordinated and effective civil society and media oversight of public resource use and public service delivery.	
FHI 360's Good Governance Barometer (GGB) is adapted to the Nepali context and CS:MAP needs and presented during the bidders'/stakeholders' conferences (Result	The first draft of the GGB has been prepared, and shared amongst the team members and the project's AOR. The draft is being reviewed Mr Joseph Sany, Peace Building

3.1);	and Governance expert at FHI 360.
Five to six Village Development Committees (VDCs) are preliminarily identified, in consultation with USAID, to pilot GGB (Result 3.1);	In consultation with USAID, CS:MAP will identify five to six VDCs in which to pilot the GGB. CS:MAP staff has started reflecting on the <i>Sajhedari Bikaas</i> project's Local Governance Barometer (LGB) to determine if any of the VDCs currently supported by the project could be candidates for the GGB process. The final list of VDCs will be contingent on the grantee selection process described under Activity 3.1.1.4.
An open call issued to identify an ISO that will facilitate GGB and building CSO and media capacity in GGB facilitation (Result 3.1);	CS:MAP issued open call to identify and select partners to work as ISOs which will facilitate GGB and build CSO and media capacity in GGB facilitation.
GGB is introduced to target VDC officials to secure buy-in and participation in the process (Result 3.1);	CS:MAP Governance Adviser has started discussing the possibilities of testing the tool with the Local Development Officer in Banke in process of securing buy-in and participation in the process.
The first Content Advisory Group (CAG) conducted with project stakeholders and sector experts to determine the main themes and topics to be covered in radio programming through September 2016 (Result 3.3);	The first Content Advisory Group (CAG) meeting was conducted on June 14, 2016 at the central level to determine main themes and topics to be covered in radio programming.
Twenty FM stations selected to partner on production and broadcast of a monthly 30-minute, central-level radio program (Result 3.3);	CS:MAP partner, Equal Access developed selection criteria to identify 40 local FM station partners – 20 production partners and 20 broadcast partners. In July 2016, EA signed contracts with 40 FM radio stations selected from the 34 CS:MAP districts to partner on the project's local radio program production and broadcast.
Seven central-level episodes and 60 of local-level episodes produced and broadcast, and complemented by a robust SMS and Interactive Voice Response (IVR) platform (Result 3.3);	The project produced two central level episodes of <i>Sajha Boli</i> and broadcast these over Radio Nepal and the 40 partner FM radio stations, to improve citizen understanding and awareness of CSOs' role in society and available social accountability mechanisms. EA and local production partners produced and broadcasted a total of 64 episodes of central and local <i>Sajha Boli</i> and the youth-targeted <i>SSMK</i> . The 20 production partner FM radio stations produced 60 episodes (3 each) while EA produced 2 episodes each of

	<i>Sajha Boli</i> and <i>SSMK</i> .
Youth engaged in social accountability via Saathi Sanga Manka Kura (SSMK) radio program to gain more information about how CS:MAP can tap into youth to drive social accountability (Result 3.3)	Two episodes of SSMK were produced and broadcast during this period from Radio Nepal and the 40 local partner FM radio stations, on August 20 and September 24, 2016. These two episodes were broadcast a total of 82 times. The SSMK episodes focused on improving the understanding of the concept and role of civil society among youth, including the type of civil society organizations that exist in local communities
Objective 4: Strengthen organizational capacity and sustainability of CSOs working in USAID priority sectors to advance local solutions.	
The activities and results under this objective will center on capacity building of 20 district-based CSOs and media organizations to improve: their institutional governance (Result 4.1); capacity to mobilize social and financial resources for sustainability (Result 4.2); and capacity to advance local solutions and promote peer learning (Result 4.3). No results are anticipated in this period, as activities will begin once grantee CSOs and media organizations are identified. However, a preliminary mapping exercise will be done this year to identify potential ISOs that will provide capacity development services to the grantees in strengthening their capacity in successive years. FHI 360 will use OCA/OPI and its own tool for capacity assessment.	CS:MAP team held individual meetings with national level CSOs which can be potential ISOs that will provide capacity development services to the grantees in strengthening their capacity in successive years. But, FHI 360 will select the ISOs through a competitive process, an open call, published on national dailies and online portals.

4. Activity Progress

4.1 Startup Activities

4.1.1 Mobilization: Personnel and project offices

Personnel: FHI 360 and its partners are committed to assembling a diverse and inclusive team of professionals for CS:MAP, and have adhered to GESI principles throughout the recruitment process. Nearly all of the CS:MAP team, including those from FHI 360, Equal Access (EA) and International Center for Not-For-Profit Law have been recruited and on-boarded. The only remaining vacant positions in Year 1 were the Kathmandu-based Finance Manager and Grants Officer. CS:MAP did not receive applications from qualified candidates for these positions through the vacancy announcement made on April 20, 2016. As a result, CS:MAP re-advertised these positions on July 1, 2016 and completed the recruitment process by the end of August

2016. Given the notice period required notice at their current jobs and Dashain holidays, these candidates joined FHI 360 on October 17, 2016.

Additionally, CS:MAP partner ICNL hired the Legal and Policy Advisor as a short-term consultant due to continuing uncertainty surrounding ICNL's registration requirements in Nepal. The consultant, who is also a member of the Nepal Bar Association, is conducting further research into ICNL's registration requirements. ICNL will provide a legal opinion to FHI 360 by October 31, 2016 regarding the long-term legal mechanism ICNL plans to use to engage the Legal and Policy Advisor. If hiring the Legal and Policy Advisor as a full-time, regular host-national employee or long-term consultant of ICNL is not an option at that time, FHI 360 and ICNL will consider alternative hiring arrangements, including hiring this position as an FHI 360 employee and amending ICNL's sub-award to reflect resulting programmatic and budgetary changes.

A few positions have been added to the original CS:MAP organogram, within the budget, where some of the team members share their time with other projects. This was done primarily to increase efficiency and ensure inclusion in the team. Out of the recruited 29 positions, 41.37% are female, 6.89% are Dalit, 6.89% are Madhesi, and 10.34% are indigenous/Janajati (this does not include Newars).

Nepalgunj office set up: CS:MAP partner EA expanded its office in Nepalgunj to accommodate seven FHI 360 staff members to be based at the Nepalgunj office, in addition to four EA project staff (two new, two existing). This included preparing office space with new flooring, wiring, and basic fixtures. Upon mutual agreement between EA and FHI 360, CS:MAP developed a reception area in the front of the building, and installed a 20 kVA generator in September 2016, to compensate for very frequent electricity outages at the Nepalgunj office. Despite concerted efforts at getting a three-phase electricity supply connected to the Nepalgunj office, this has not yet been approved by the local electricity supply office. A lack of three-phase supply limits the operation of air-conditioning, which is vital for Nepalgunj, since the area experiences high temperatures for up to nine months a year. In coordination with FHI 360, EA has been searching for a new office space. Since it has been difficult to secure a new office space, the team is still pursuing the option of securing a three-phase supply at the current office premise.

National Launch of CS:MAP: On June 10, 2016, FHI 360 organized a well-attended launch event to introduce the project to key stakeholders and begin building important relationships. USAID Mission Director Mr. Peter Malnak was in attendance. He officially launched the project by igniting a *panas* - a traditional Nepali lamp lit on important occasions for auspicious beginnings - and handed over the project plaque to the Chief of Party in the presence of 80 participants. Participants included parliamentarians, senior government officials, civil society actors, representatives from INGOs and the media. Mr. Rabindra Adhikari (Chairperson of the Parliament's Development Committee), Ms. Sita Gurung (member of the State Affairs Committee), and Mr. Gopal Lamsal and Ms. Anita Bindu (Chairperson of NGO Federation and Vice President of Federation of Nepali Journalists) all expressed their satisfaction with USAID's support to strengthen the civil society and media sectors in Nepal. They also expressed their commitment to collaborate with and support CS:MAP throughout its implementation. The event was an important first step for securing buy-in from stakeholders for CS:MAP activities.

Project launch event in Nepalgunj: The regional launch of CS:MAP was held on July 14, 2016 in Nepalgunj in the presence of parliamentarian, senior government officials, civil society actors, representatives from INGOs and the media. The program was attended by more than 60 participants, and USAID Mission Director Mr. Peter Malnak officially launched the project by igniting a *panas*. At the launch ceremony, Mr. Dilli Chaudhary (member of the Legislature Parliament), Mr. Ravi Lal Pantha (Chief District Officer of Banke), and Mr. Pramod Rijal and by Mr. Rudra Subedi (Chairperson of NGO Federation, Banke and President of Federation of Nepali Journalists, Banke) all attended and expressed their support for collaboration with CS:MAP in its activities.

Procurement: Most of items were procured as per the approved Work Plan. CS:MAP received approval from USAID/Nepal for the procurement of a photocopier and vehicle, and already finalized the procurement of the photocopier. An order is placed for the vehicle in CIF, which will be delivered by the first quarter of Year 2.

During this period, CS:MAP, in coordination of USAID/Nepal, also accepted a vehicle from a closing USAID project implemented by Mercy Corps. The additional vehicle will be used for the project activities in selected districts from Kathmandu.

Other items for the projects will be procured in the coming months as required.

4.1.2 Development and submission of deliverables

Years 1 and 2 Work Plans: FHI 360 developed the CS:MAP Work Plan for the period of April – September 2016 in collaboration with partners EA and ICNL, and submitted it for USAID review on May 4, 2016. Following the submission, CS:MAP staff met with the project's Agreement Officer's Representative (AOR) to discuss any necessary adjustments and address questions. FHI 360 revised the draft based on USAID's feedback, and submitted the final Year 1 Work Plan on June 17, 2016. USAID approved the final Work Plan on June 21, 2016. The Work Plan has served as the roadmap for the project in its first six months of implementation, as the CS:MAP team worked to lay the ground for a successful launch of activities in Year 1 and beyond.

The Year 2 Work Plan for CS:MAP was developed through two rounds of in-house workshops with CS:MAP's implementing partners – FHI 360, EA and ICNL. The project shared the first draft of this Work Plan with USAID on August 31, 2016 and held review meetings on September 21 and 27, 2016. CS:MAP submitted a final draft of the Work Plan on September 30, 2016, and it was approved on the same day.

Communications Plan: FHI 360 developed and submitted a Communications Plan to CS:MAP's AOR on June 3, 2016 (within 60 days of the effective date of the award). AOR comments were incorporated and submitted in a final draft on July 12, 2016 and approved by USAID on July 15, 2016. Developed in line with CS:MAP's Branding and Marking Plan, this plan will ensure that CS:MAP communicates clear, coherent and credible project messages that reflect USAID/Nepal's priorities and that take into consideration the social and political environment in Nepal.

Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan: FHI 360 prepared and submitted an Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan for USAID's review on July 1, 2016. This plan incorporates

measures to be taken during emergency situations and disasters in the Kathmandu and Nepalgunj offices.

Performance Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan (PMELP): The CS:MAP team held several workshops to develop the PMELP, building on the preliminary M&E Plan developed during CS:MAP project design. CS:MAP submitted the first draft of PMELP to USAID on July 01, 2016. The CS:MAP team held meetings with AOR and USAID M&E focal persons on July 15, 2016, followed up with several rounds of informal discussions between July 15 to 19, 2016 to review the document. The comments and suggestions were incorporated and sent to USAID for approval on August 1, 2016, and approved on August 19, 2016.

Quarterly Performance Report #1 (April 04 - June 30, 2016): The first quarterly report of CS:MAP was submitted to USAID on July 29, 2016. The team incorporated comments and suggestions for improvement on August 24, 2016 and received approval from the AOR on the same date.

4.2 Progress Achieved toward Project Objectives

4.2.1 Objective 1: Strengthened enabling environment for civil society and media.

Result 1.1: Improved legal and policy framework, based on international standards, that leads to better operating environment and strengthened capacity for civil society.

Activity 1.1.1: Rapid assessment of existing CSO and media legal frameworks, stakeholder consultations, and formulation of recommendations

Through the Legal and Policy Consultant, ICNL led the implementation of this activity, as detailed below.

Activity 1.1.1.1: Desk research and key informant interviews:

The first task under Objective 1 was to analyze the existing CSO and media legal frameworks to identify discrepancies with international standards and best practices (Result 1.1), and to produce a rapid assessment to be shared with GoN, civil society, and media stakeholders to solicit feedback and engage stakeholders in dialogue around policy reform (Result 1.1). To accomplish this task, CS:MAP partner ICNL commenced two related activities: first, it began desk research into the relevant Nepali laws and regulations; and second, it undertook key informant interviews with stakeholders.

As previously mentioned, through its desk research, ICNL has identified approximately fifteen major laws and regulations governing the operations and activities of CSOs and media organizations. ICNL also conducted approximately 30 key informant interviews. The interviewees included a range of civil society, media, and government stakeholders, including representatives from the NGO Federation, the Federation of Nepali Journalists, the Nepal Participatory Action Network, the Governance Facility, the International Center for Transitional Justice, the Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organization, The Kathmandu Post, the Good Governance Foundation, the Forum for Protection of People's Rights, Kathmandu University School of Law, Members of Parliament, and others.

These interviews have shed light on the legal framework for CSOs and the media, enabling ICNL to gain an insight into the procedures and practices underlying relevant laws and regulations. The initial interviews revealed potential areas for consensus around legal or regulatory reform. For example, the current framework is marked by multiple registration requirements, creating confusion and uncertainty, and stakeholders agree on the need to simplify the system. Similarly, the media is subject to various regulations on what it can and cannot publish; the draft Online Media Directive is the most recent example.

CS:MAP shared the initial findings of this research with local stakeholders during a conference organized on September 28-29, 2016 to engage GON, civil society, and media representatives in dialogue around policy reform, and solicited their feedback (Activity 1.1.1.2). The research will be completed following district-based multi-stakeholder forums in Quarter 2 of Year 2.

Activity 1.1.1.2: Stakeholder conference in Kathmandu:

On September 28-29, 2016, ICNL hosted a multi-stakeholder conference on “The Legal Framework for Civil Society: Challenges and Opportunities,” in Kathmandu. Approximately 80 participants, including parliamentarians, government officials, civil society, and media representatives participated in the conference. Participants highlighted a set of pressing concerns, one of which was the need to review and analyze the draft Social Welfare and Development Bill. The Conference consisted of four panels and discussions: (1) *Legal Framework for Civil Society: Challenges and Opportunities*; (2) *The Legal Framework for Civil Society and the Media: International Standards*; (3) *Self-Regulation: What is working well? What more needs to be done?*; and (4) *Recommendations to improve Self-regulation*. All of these garnered support to improve self-regulation and Nepal’s legal framework for broader civil society and media while meeting international standards.

Day 1 of the conference focused on the legal framework for civil society and the media. Mr. Kedar Khadka, Chairperson of the Go-Go Foundation, affirmed that CS:MAP was launched at an important time to help Nepalis think about how to improve their democracy. Mr. Subodh Raj Pyakurel, Chairperson of the Informal Sector Service Center (INSEC), encouraged more civil society input in the drafting of the Social Welfare and Development Bill. While CSOs have not been heavily involved with the drafting of this Bill, civil society’s input is necessary to ensure that civil society is able to maintain its independence. Mr. Taranath Dahal, President of the Freedom Forum, noted that current laws regulating media are inconsistent with the guarantees of freedom of expression in the new Constitution. Dr. Usha Jha of Samjhauta Nepal highlighted the presence of conflicting directives affecting civil society; for example, the requirements of the Ministry of Finance’s 2014 Development Cooperation Policy are not entirely consistent with what the Social Welfare Council’s demands of CSOs. Experts from ICNL laid out the international standards for legal frameworks governing civil society and the media, highlighting five principles from international law and best practices, including the idea that the ability to exercise the freedom of association should be broadly accessible and that the legal infrastructure should facilitate the process of attaining legal entity status. Experts from ICNL addressed how Nepali law governing the freedoms of expression and information diverge from the international norms articulated by the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights.

Day 2 of the conference examined self-regulation of civil society and media. Mr. Dharmendra Jha, senior journalist and former president of the Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ), stated that self-regulation may be necessary to make the work of journalists more professional, but that

the role of government should be one of guidance, not interference. Mr. Gunaraj Luitel, Editor-in-Chief of the Nagarik Daily, noted that codes of conduct can be implemented, particularly within individual newsrooms, to address conflicts of interest in reporting. Mr. Kundan Aryal, Associate Professor at Tribhuvan University, affirmed the need for self-regulation and added that self-regulation could contribute to accuracy in reporting, address biases of journalists, and increase the trust in media by the general public. Ms. Babita Basnet, Chairperson of the Media Advocacy Group, maintained that there is also a great need for self-regulation among CSOs, who should be more transparent in how they use funds.

Overall, the conference proved to be a success. CS:MAP was able to raise its profile to a broad group of relevant stakeholders. Notably, while most of the participants represented civil society and/or media organizations, there were a number of government and parliamentary representatives, whose support going forward could be crucial in advancing legal reform. In addition, the conference helped identify additional issues and challenges related to Nepal's legal framework and self-regulatory schemes for civil society and the media.

Activity 1.1.2: Research and stakeholder consultation results summarized and disseminated for action:

ICNL will compile the results of the desk research and stakeholder consultations in and outside of Kathmandu into a comprehensive report in Quarter 2 of Year 2. The report will serve to guide advocacy initiatives by 5-10 grantees identified by CS:MAP through an open call (Activity 1.1.3).

Activity 1.1.3: Grants to fund advocacy efforts focused on improving enabling environment

Activity 1.1.3.1: Solicitation design and approval:

On July 27, 2016, FHI 360 designed and submitted to USAID a draft Request for Applications (RFA) for Strengthening Enabling Environment grants fund – including eligibility and selection criteria – seeking applications to identify 5-10 nationally-based CSOs and media organizations and coalitions to implement advocacy projects resulting in the improvement of at least five key laws¹, regulations or policies affecting the civil society and media sectors. Through this grant, CS:MAP will also support one CSO and one media coalition to lead self-regulation reform within their respective sectors. CS:MAP revised the RFA based on the AOR's suggestions, and USAID finally approved it on August 2, 2016. The RFA notification was published in daily newspapers, Kantipur, and The Himalayan Times on August 4, 2016. The same date, it was posted on these websites: www.jobsnepal.com, www.merajob.com and www.explore.info.

Activity 1.1.3.2: RFA dissemination and bidders' conference:

As envisioned in CS:MAP Work Plan Year 1, FHI 360 held a Bidders' Conference in Kathmandu on August 15, 2016 to ensure transparency and encourage the broadest possible applicant pool. The Conference provided an opportunity for FHI 360 to present the objectives and expectations under the RFA, and engaged civil society and media organizations interested in responding to its RFA. The event had 98 participants from 72 organizations, of whom 27 were

¹ The five key laws may include Social Welfare and Development Bill; Electronics Media Act; Articles on right to opinion, right to media freedom, right to information, right to form associations; the Working Journalist Act; the Electronic Transaction Act, and others.

female and 71 were male. The objective of the Conference was to make the RFA process transparent, and the objective of the project and the RFA to potential bidders. The participants appreciated FHI 360's initiative to hold the conference. CS:MAP's AOR attended the event.

Activity 1.1.3.3: Grants selection process:

On September 8, 2016, CS:MAP's COP formed a six-member Grants Evaluation Committee (GEC) including a non-voting member. The committee members included: Ms. Sajana Maharjan, DCOP CS:MAP, Dr. Nirmal Rijal, Media Director and Mr. Tika Ram Ale, Grants Manager, Mr. Zach Lampell, ICNL and Mr. Jetmir Bakija, Senior Program Manager of National Democratic Institute (NDI) and USAID AOR, who participated as a non-voting member. A total of 28 organizations submitted their applications. Two of the organizations were disqualified from further evaluation because they did not meet the minimum criteria outlined in the RFA. The committee members reviewed application of the remaining 26 organizations, and the scoring process will be completed by the end of October 2016.

In reviewing the grantees, the GEC prioritized applications that included: 1) clearly outlined plans for engaging with the government; 2) plans for coordinating with, and/or undertaking joint action with other CSOs/media (joint CSO/media proposals will receive extra points); 3) demonstrated engagement of constituents in the design and implementation of activities; 4) principles of inclusion applied to design (including assessments to identify gender, ethnicity/caste needs appropriate); 5) demonstrated commitment to organizational capacity development through costs budgeted for such activities; and 6) a clear results framework with output/outcome indicators.

Activity 1.1.3.4: Award finalization:

Following the selection finalization, CS:MAP will conduct pre-award assessment of the shortlisted organizations and will work with each grantee to finalize the project descriptions and budgets for submission to USAID for AOR concurrence and Agreement Officer approval. CS:MAP envisions signing grants with the successful organizations in December 2016.

Activity 1.1.4: Support a CSO Coalition:

This activity will resume once the grants selection process is complete as outlined under Activity 1.1.3.3. Once the selection is finalized, one grantee organization will serve as a collaboration platform for CSOs advocating for policy reform around enabling environment. The objectives of the Coalition will be as follows: 1) coordinate CSO advocacy efforts and support member CSOs in representing their interests to Parliamentarians, Ministry officials, and other GoN stakeholders; 2) serve as a resource organization for its members in improving their advocacy and government engagement skills; 3) lead the drafting of updated internal governance mechanisms, including Code of Conduct for CSOs with technical assistance from CS:MAP; 3) develop a strategy for enforcing the Code and other self-regulation standards for CSOs; and 5) train its members on the content of the updated Code.

Activity 1.1.5: Support the Media Coalition:

This activity will resume once the grants selection process is complete as outlined under Activity 1.1.3.3. Once the selection is finalized, one grantee organization will work with the Media Coalition to: 1) convene and coordinate media organizations in their efforts to improve enabling environment for the media sector; 2) serve as a resource organization for its members in

improving their advocacy and government engagement skills; 3) lead the drafting of the updated Code of Journalistic Ethics and other media self-regulation standards with technical assistance from CS:MAP; 4) develop a strategy for enforcing the Code and other self-regulation standards for media organizations; and 5) train its members on the content of the updated Code.

Result 1.2. Improved public understanding and confidence in the role of CSOs and media.

Activity 1.2.1: Assessment of public perception about media and CSOs:

CS:MAP initially aimed to identify a local research firm to conduct an opinion poll in September 2016. However, since a separate baseline study (as an activity) was not planned or budgeted, CS:MAP decided to postpone the survey until the list of indicators in the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan were finalized so that the project could expand the scope of the Public Perception Survey to also to inform values for additional indicators in its M&E Plan. CS:MAP's approved M&E Plan was the guiding document for this activity. However, it took a month longer than anticipated to prepare, finalize and get approval for the open call to identify a research firm. The RFA for the selection of an organization to conduct this activity was published in the daily newspapers, Kantipur, and The Himalayan Times on September 23, 2016 with the deadline to submit the applications by October 17, 2016. On the same date, it was posted on these websites: www.jobsnepal.com, www.merojob.com and www.ixplore.info. In addition to this, CS:MAP could get opinions of the stakeholders on the recent draft of Social Welfare and Development Bill and Media Policy during the international conference held on September 28-29, 2016 (Activity 1.1.2). This helped the team in generating opinions about the gaps in people's understanding.

CS:MAP plans to start this assessment in mid-December 2016 and conclude it by the end of February 2017. This public perception survey will contribute to the baseline data for certain CS:MAP indicators. The main focus of this survey will be to 1) gauge public perceptions of civil society's and media's role; 2) assess confidence in transparency, effectiveness, and governance; and 3) measure the extent to which women and minority groups feel that civil society and the media represent them. FHI 360 will utilize the data collected through USAID's most recent perception polls, and fill data gaps, if needed.

4.2.2 Objective 2: Improved civil society and media capacity for effective policy advocacy and government engagement

Result 2.1: Strengthened CSO initiatives to coordinate with the GON and to implement constructive advocacy strategies.

Activity 2.1.1: CSOs and media organizations identified to coordinate with the GON and implement constructive advocacy strategies:

The issue date initially selected for the Advocacy, Government Engagement, and Oversight RFA coincided with the holiday season in Nepal. To ensure a broad pool of applicants, FHI 360, in consultation with USAID, decided to delay the call and issue it immediately after the holidays. The draft RFA was prepared and submitted for approval on October 3, 2016. The RFA was approved after incorporating the comments and suggestions, the details of which will be included in the next quarterly report.

Approximately eight organizations will be selected from the earthquake-affected districts. We will prioritize organizations working in disaster-risk reduction and response and democracy and governance sectors, as well as those which work on women's or minority issues and those led by women or minorities. Additionally, to ensure coverage across all 34 USAID target districts, FHI 360 will encourage applications from networks or organizations with presence (through existing projects or partners) in these target districts. Applications from existing or anticipated coalitions (CSO-media, national-subnational, and so on) will be prioritized. Once the selection process is complete and USAID approvals are secured, FHI 360 anticipates issuing the initial 5-10 grants by January 2017.

Activity 2.1.2: Advocacy and government engagement capacity of 20-district based CSOs and media organizations strengthened

This activity will take place over the next reporting periods once the grantees are selected and grants are issued.

Activity 2.1.2.1: ISO(s) identified and trained to provide advocacy and government engagement capacity building to target CSOs and media organizations:

On September 2, CS:MAP issued the RFA for identifying four to seven ISOs with expertise and capacity in CS:MAP technical areas (i.e., advocacy and oversight, GESI, organizational development, media) to serve as the project's capacity building service providers to 20 district-based CSOs and media organizations. The draft RFA was submitted to USAID AOR for approval on August 10, 2016, which was revised after consultation meetings on August 26, 2016. The final revised one was submitted on August 30, 2016 and was approved on the same date. The RFA notification was published in daily newspapers, Kantipur, and The Himalayan Times. It was also posted on websites including, www.jobsnepal.com, www.merajob.com and www.explore.info on the same date. The deadline for the submission of the applications was set for October 3, 2016.

Following the announcement, CS:MAP held a Question & Answer session on September 9, 2016 to address prospective applicants' queries about the RFA. The event was held in Kathmandu and drew 46 participants from 36 organizations, of whom 15 were female and 31 were male. The CS:MAP team shed light on the purpose of the RFA, the type of capacity building support required of ISOs, eligibility and application procedures, grant amounts and duration, geographic focus, selection process and compliance requirements. In a lively and interactive session that lasted about 90 minutes, CSO and media representatives asked questions about the RFA, and the CS: MAP team responded to these questions.

Once the ISOs are selected and the sub-award process is finalized by end of December 2016, CS:MAP and its partner EA will provide TA to these organizations and equip them with the necessary tools so that they can provide capacity development support to CSOs and media organizations.

Activity 2.1.2.2: ISO(s) facilitate Advocacy Readiness Index to identify CSO and media capacity needs in advocacy and government engagement:

This activity will take place over the next reporting period. However, in preparation for this activity, CS:MAP's Capacity Building Manager has reviewed FHI 360's Advocacy Readiness Index, and began tailoring it to the Nepali context. The first draft of the tool and its index was shared with the CS:MAP team members in presence of USAID AOR on September 18, 2016. The Capacity Building team of CS:MAP is continuously getting inputs and suggestions from international expert Mr. Nebojsa Radic, who helped design and implement this tool on other FHI 360 civil society strengthening projects. This assessment tool is designed to measure an organization's existing capacity for advocacy and help prioritize training interventions based on the organization's needs. With the inputs from the international expert, CS:MAP's Capacity Building team will finalize the Index in Quarter 1 of Year 2 in time to train the selected ISOs on its use.

Result 2.2: Improved coalition-building between local and national CSOs, and between CSOs and the media; joint actions undertaken on selected policy priorities across sectors.

Activity 2.2.1: Coalitions and networks strengthened to undertake joint advocacy actions on policy priorities across sectors:

In selecting 20 grantees as outlined under Result 2.1, FHI 360 aims to identify at least one network or coalition in each of the USAID priority sectors (democracy and governance, disaster risk reduction, education, economic growth, environment, agriculture/food security, and health). In the following Work Plan periods, CS:MAP will enhance networks' capacity for evidence-based advocacy; improve their support of network members; strengthen their external relations; mainstream GESI into their work; and support strategic planning and sustainability. The project will also facilitate joint actions across sectors by convening bi-annual summits and providing an online platform for collaboration (Objective 3, Results 3.2 and 3.4). The selection of the grantees under this grant will begin in the next Work Plan period, given the September and October holidays in Nepal.

Activity 2.2.2: Shreejanshil Shakhas (innovation centers) identified to serve as CSO-media collaboration hubs

Per the Year 1 Work Plan, this activity did not take place in this reporting period.

Result 2.3: Improved CSO and media capacity to conduct participatory and evidence-based research on issues, policy, and enforcement in order to benefit marginalized groups

Per the Year 1 Work Plan, no activities took place in this reporting period.

Additional activities to enhance capacity of media at national and sub-national levels on advocacy and oversight and monitoring

Per the Year 1 Work Plan, this activity did not take place in this reporting period.

4.2.3 Objective 3: Improved citizen awareness and use of available GON social accountability mechanisms.

Result 3.1: Improved capacity of local CSOs, media, and community-based organizations to monitor and report on cross-sectoral public service delivery, based on common standards applicable to each sector.

Activity 3.1.1 Good Governance Barometer (GGB)

The Good Governance Barometer (GGB) brings together local stakeholders, including local government authorities, in a participatory and rigorous process to jointly design indicators, collect data, and then regularly analyze local governance performance around a particular area of focus. GGB is both a social accountability tool and a development planning tool. Through a participatory modeling and evaluation process, the GGB translates the complications of a specific governance system into locally appropriate indicators and a clear distillation of the system's strengths and weaknesses. That distillation is used to plan development priorities, measure their effectiveness, and advocate for governance improvement.

The GGB is a tool to:

- Engage a multi-stakeholder group (including government, civil society and private sector) in modeling its government system.
- Measure governance performance in a participatory and systemic way;
- Identify the strengths and weaknesses of governance system and develop action plan to improve it;
- Establish a baseline of governance performance at the outset of a project, then, following the implementation of governance improvement interventions from the action plan, evaluate their effectiveness;
- Communicate governance performance to local stakeholders and advocate to local officials in ways that reflect the values and priorities of stakeholders.

Activity 3.1.1.1 Adapt the GGB to Nepali context and CS:MAP needs:

The first draft of the Good Governance Barometer (GGB) has been prepared, and shared amongst the team members and the project's AOR. It was presented at a workshop on September 18, 2016, where we received additional suggestions for improvement. The draft was then sent to Mr Joseph Sany, Peace Building and Governance expert at FHI 360, for feedback. The concept and plan were also shared with the project's Local Development Officer of the Banke district in order to get the impression/feedback which will help in implementing the tool in select VDCs. Furthermore, as outlined in the Project Technical Application, CS:MAP will use social accountability tools to enhance governance and service delivery.

Activity 3.1.1.2. Identify potential VDCs/local level to pilot the GGB: In consultation with USAID, CS:MAP will identify five to six VDCs in which to pilot the GGB. CS:MAP staff has started reflecting on the *Sajhedari Bikaas* project's Local Governance Barometer (LGB) to determine if any of the VDCs currently supported by the project could be candidates for the GGB process. The final list of VDCs will be contingent on the grantee selection process described under Activity 3.1.1.4. Since CS:MAP grantees will be driving the GGB process, geographic location/reach of grantees will determine the VDCs in which the GGB will be implemented. During meetings with the *Sajhedari Bikaas* team, it was noted that the project piloted the LGB in only in two VDCs, one in Banke (Sohanpur) and the other in the Bardiya (Tarataal) district; however, this was later withdrawn after piloting the model.

Activity 3.1.1.3. Hold preliminary meetings with pilot VDC officials to introduce the GGB:

As mentioned earlier, securing local officials' support is vital to an effective GGB process. As such, once the initial adaptation of the GGB is finalized and pilot VDCs are identified, the CS:MAP Governance Advisor will initiate meetings with VDC officials to gauge their openness to the GGB process. To assess the situation, the CS:MAP Governance Adviser has started discussing the possibilities of testing the tool with the Local Development Officer in Banke. The officer was open to it, provided that it eases the government's processes and does not overburden them.

Activity 3.1.1.4. Identify ISOs/CSOs and build their capacity to facilitate GGB: Through the Policy Advocacy, Government Engagement, and Oversight RFA, CS:MAP will identify at least one ISO that will be tasked with facilitating and building the capacity of CSOs/media organizations to facilitate the GGB process. Additionally, at least five to six grantees identified through the open call will include the GGB process in their grant activities. If more grantees wish to incorporate GGB into their oversight activities, then the GGB can be scaled up to more than five to six VDCs. The selection process of ISOs is ongoing as mentioned in Activity 2.1.2.

Activities from 3.1.1.5 to 3.1.1.10 did not take place during this reporting period per the Year 1 Work Plan.

Activity 3.1.1.11 Online collaboration platform (MeroReport) to monitor and report on cross-sectoral public service delivery:

The Online collaboration platform – *MeroReport* has been reconfigured and the design, layout and format has been customized to allow for user-participation and building of online forums in accordance with CS:MAP objectives and activities. As this platform has been designed to include user-generated content, it can become fully operational and interactive once the project grantees come on board in the next two quarters. The platform will then allow project stakeholders – specifically the selected grantees under Objectives 2 and 3 – to share GGB results, communicate online through videos and messages, and create issue-specific working groups for broad mobilization. The platform will be launched and tested among a general audience to ensure that it meets the purpose for which it has been designed, such that it can be further reconfigured for use by project stakeholders starting in the second quarter of the next project year.

Result 3.2: Improved bottom-up coordination between community, district, and national formal and informal CSOs engaged in public service oversight.

No activities took place under Result 3.2 in this reporting period, per the Year 1 Work Plan.

Result 3.3: Improved citizen awareness and use of available GON social accountability mechanisms.

Activity 3.3.1: Social Accountability Trainings

No activities took place in this reporting period per the Year 1 Work Plan.

Activity 3.3.2: Radio programming to raise citizen awareness of social accountability mechanisms:

CS:MAP worked to improve citizen awareness on available social accountability mechanisms through radio programs co-produced and broadcasted centrally and locally in the CS:MAP districts. The radio series *Sajha Boli* included panel discussions, feature reports and call-in segments to address all objectives and intermediary results of the project, publicize advocacy and reform efforts, monitor government performance, and highlight citizen engagement on social accountability.

Activity 3.3.2.1 - Content Advisory Group (CAG) meeting:

Twenty-one Content Advisory Group (CAG) meetings were held during this period – one for the central-level production and 20 for the local radio productions (these radio productions “*Sajha Boli*” are described in detail under *Activity 3.3.2.4*). As per EA’s content production methodology, the team organized CAG meetings to solicit inputs, at both the central and local levels, from a group of topical experts and practitioners with knowledge of best practices, challenges and gaps in the areas of governance, policy advocacy, social accountability mechanisms, and oversight of public service delivery in Nepal. While the central-level CAG meeting was organized by EA, the local level CAG meetings were organized by each of the selected 20 production FM radio partners (the selection and training of 40 radio partners are outlined under *Activity 3.3.2.2*).

The central-level CAG meeting was held on June 14, 2016 at the FHI 360 office in Kathmandu. Participants included the Commissioner of the National Information Commission; the Joint Secretary and Spokesperson of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare; the Joint Secretary and Spokesperson of the National Reconstruction Authority; representatives from the Press Council of Nepal and the NGO Federation, civil society and media development organizations; representatives from USAID’s Democracy and Governance Office; and CS:MAP team members. Of the 22 participants that attended, 10 were female. Fig. 1 below shows the caste and ethnicity breakdown of the participants at this CAG meeting.

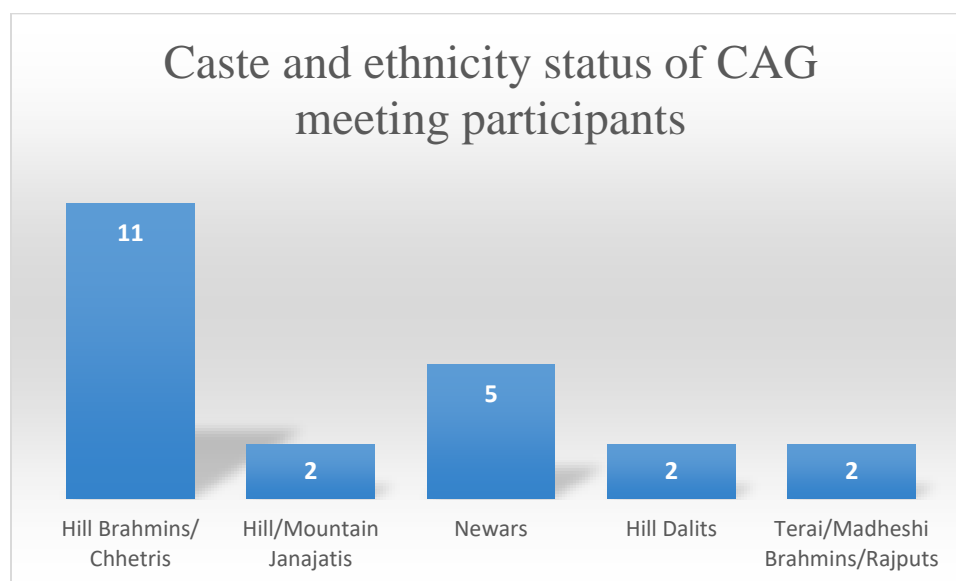


Fig. 1 Caste and ethnicity breakdown of central level CAG meeting

Participants discussed the current status, gaps, and challenges in public service delivery, especially in relation to the 2015 earthquake recovery as perceived by civil society and media. Participants noted that the gaps and challenges resulted primarily from the delay in establishing the NRA, which is entrusted with undertaking post-earthquake recovery and reconstruction efforts. They also pointed to the challenge posed by the lack of adequate administrative staff at VDCs, with VDC secretary positions remaining vacant across many areas. It was also pointed out that certain laws needed to be formulated for the NRA to initiate reconstruction and recovery work, and that NRA's progress should not be judged by only the number of houses rebuilt.

Likewise, participants discussed the need for Gender Equality and Social Inclusion to be a part of CS:MAP's approach and to be included within media content and messages. Participants also made helpful recommendations on prioritizing thematic areas for CS:MAP media content development, partnership selection, and scope for policy interventions. Participants also emphasized the importance of CS:MAP coordinating its media messages with other media projects that work with earthquake-affected populations in CS:MAP target districts. In addition, participants noted that media programming plays a significant role in raising citizens' awareness of the right to information as a social accountability tool, as well as the need to create demand for its use.

The local level CAG meetings were organized by all 20 FM radio production partners in the third and fourth weeks of July 2016. The EA teams based in Kathmandu and Nepalgunj remained in frequent contact with these 20 partner stations, overseeing the organization of CAG meetings and encouraging the adoption of CAG methodology in other media programs.

Based on demographic data furnished by 16 of the 20 production partner FM radio stations that conducted local CAG meetings, there were a total of 192 participants. Data from the production partner FM radio stations in Rasuwa, Rukum, Sindhupalchowk and Dolkha districts have not yet been received.

Participants were predominantly male (83%) in the local CAG meetings. There were no female participants in three districts namely Ramechhap, Lalitpur and Makwanpur. The caste/ethnicity composition of the participants in the local CAG meetings was disproportionately Hill Brahmins/Chhetris. Of the total 192 participants, 132 (69%) of them belonged to this category. Terai/Madhesi/Dalits and religious minorities consisted of only 1% and 2% of the participants, respectively. EA will make efforts to improve gender and social inclusion in CAG meetings going forward.

Overall, both the central and local CAG meetings helped provide broader guidance on issues of governance, inclusion, collective advocacy, engagement and the need for addressing issues in-depth. These inputs served as a guideline for the design of three monthly content plans for media programming production teams both at the central and local levels. A second central-level CAG meeting has been planned to be held in the first week of October 2016

Activity 3.3.2.2 - Selection of local radio program production and broadcast partners and local content production training:

In June 2016, Equal Access developed selection criteria to identify 40 local FM station partners – 20 production partners and 20 broadcast partners. In July 2016, EA signed contracts with 40 FM radio stations selected from the 34 CS:MAP districts to partner on the project's local radio program production and broadcast. The production partners contribute content to the national program and produce localized content for local versions of the program. Selection criteria included FM station transmission power, technical capacity, listeners' feedback, social inclusion, existing programs and human resource, financial management, credibility, ownership and partnership history. After collecting assessment information from approximately 90 FM radio stations in the 34 CS:MAP districts, EA's assessment team finalized a list of 40 FM station partners. Detailed selection criteria and a list of selected FM stations can be found in Annex 1 of this report.

From July 8-12, 2016, EA organized a five-day residential training for radio program producers representing the 20 local production partner FM radio stations. As one participant could not make it to the Nepalgunj training on time, a total of 19 producers from 19 FM stations participated in the training.² The overall aim of the training was to build the capacity of FM stations to produce interactive, quality radio program episodes on issues around social accountability related to the use of public resources and government service delivery; and to initiate discussions around constructive government engagement in advocating for the advancement of public interest.

The training focused on the various types of radio formats, script writing and packaging techniques that encourage interactivity. The training also oriented participants on CS:MAP's goal and objectives, the various types of social accountability tools being used in Nepal, understanding conflict sensitivity while reporting, and topics related to personal and professional security. The training included a separate session to acquaint participants on GESI principles – both to ensure equality and inclusion within content topics and also to ensure inclusion in terms of participation in the content development process. The training participants will take back their newfound learning, and each month they will produce one episode of *Sajha Boli* broadcasted within the 34 districts.

Table 2 Test of knowledge on different topics prior to and after the training

Knowledge areas tested through pre and post training assessment	Response was YES			Response was NO		Did not respond	
	Pre	Post	Change	Pre	Post	Pre	Post
Objectives of CS:MAP	5%	84%	+79%	90%	11%	5%	5%
Democracy & Governance	42%	79%	+37%	58%	16%	0%	5%
Social Accountability	47%	84%	+37%	53%	11%	0%	5%
Interactive Radio Program Production	58%	95%	+37%	42%	5%	0%	0%

² The one participant who missed this training was included in the Community Reporters training conducted from July 24-28

Radio Magazine	74%	95%	+19%	26%	5%	0%	0%
Communication for Development	74%	95%	+19%	26%	0%	0%	5%
Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)	74%	95%	+19%	26%	0%	0%	5%
Average	53%	89%	+36%	46%	7%	1%	4%

The training was assessed using a pre-training and a post-training questionnaire that aimed to gauge change in knowledge among participants on the various topics discussed. The assessment shows an average increment of 36% (as seen from Table 2 above). Among the topics covered, it was found that there was a significant increase (79%) in knowledge and understanding of CS:MAP and its objectives. Likewise, there was a noticeable change in knowledge among participants regarding topics such as Democracy and Governance, Social Accountability, and Interactive Radio Program Production. Although prior to the training, participants had relatively strong knowledge of Radio Magazine, Communication for Development and GESI (74% across all three areas), after the training this increased by 19%.

Understanding that knowledge-building is an ongoing process, the EA production team continued to reach out to the trainees and coach and mentor them on a regular basis. Two of the twenty trained program producers left their jobs at the FM station after the training – one at Radio *Bheri* in Surkhet and the second at *Hajurko* Radio in Ramechhap district. The EA Program Manager (Production) personally traveled to Surkhet to orient and coach the replacement that the radio station provided. As for the new producer in Ramechhap, the EA production team conducted an orientation session via telephone and continued to mentor both on a regular basis.

Activity 3.3.2.3 - Hiring and training of Community Reporters:

EA conducted a five-day residential training for 34 Community Reporters (CRs) in Nepalgunj from July 24-18, 2016. The CR concept is an integral part of EA's approach of building capacity among youth, women and other members of traditionally marginalized groups to become media reporters capable of raising issues in their communities for broader dissemination. For CS:MAP, the CRs will serve as the eyes and ears of the community, ensuring that marginalized voices are heard and local issues are raised in local dialogues, thereby creating a link between civil society, media, government and community members.

The July training of CRs established the importance of good and effective coordination between the FM radio station producer, CR, and the Kathmandu based central level production team. Accordingly, the primary purpose of the CR training was to apprise participants on how to coordinate in the identification, researching, recording and packaging of local issues for local and central level *Sajha Boli* programming. Topics covered in the training included the following:

- Overview of CS:MAP and the role that CSOs and media can play in constructive advocacy and in bridging the gap between government and CSOs
- Social Accountability tools with a focus on RTI
- Use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Tools including the *Mero Report* web portal

- Introduction to professional recording equipment (Zoom Recorders) and their use
- Different radio formats with a focus on interview techniques, ethics and sensitivity
- Importance of GESI to ensure that community voices are inclusive and representative
- Action plan for coordination with the local partner FM radio stations
- Safety & security issues at work.

Of the 35 training participants (34 CRs and 1 FM radio producer), 83% were female. In terms of ethnicity, participants represented mixed groups, including Hill Brahmin/ Chhetri (54%) followed by Hill Mountain Janajati (14%) and Hill Dalit (14%), Newar (11%), Terai Madhesi Janajati Aadhibasi (3%) and Terai Madhesi others (3%). All participants were below 35 years of age, 97 % below 30 and 53% in the age bracket 20 – 24.

The training was assessed using a pre-training and a post-training questionnaire that aimed to gauge change in knowledge among participants on the various topics discussed. Table 3 below shows change in understanding and knowledge among participants on the different topics.

Table 3. Test of knowledge on different topics prior to and after the training

Knowledge areas tested through pre- and post-training assessment	Response was YES			Response was NO	
	Pre	Post	Change	Pre	Post
Objectives of CSMAP	12%	97%	85%	88%	3%
Democracy and Governance	5%	94%	89%	95%	6%
Social Accountability Tools	18%	100%	82%	82%	0%
Civil Society Organizations	35%	100%	65%	65%	0%
Community Reporter Role	41%	100%	59%	59%	0%
Communication for Development	47%	100%	53%	53%	0%
Gender Equality and Social Inclusion	59%	100%	41%	41%	0%
Average	31%	99%	68%	69%	1%

The assessment of change in level of knowledge among the participants on various topics covered during the training shows an average increase of 68 %. In the post-training survey on participant knowledge, responses were at 100 % for 5 out of 7 topics discussed in the training, suggesting remarkable progress.

Since the training, all 34 CRs have continued in their role and are being continually supported and mentored by the EA production and outreach staff..

Activity 3.3.2.4 - Program production, broadcast and audience interactivity

To improve citizen understanding and awareness of CSOs' role in society and available social accountability mechanisms, EA and local production partners produced and broadcasted a total of 64 episodes of central and local *Sajha Boli* and the youth-targeted *SSMK*. The 20 production partner FM radio stations produced 60 episodes (3 each) while EA produced 2 episodes each of *Sajha Boli* and *SSMK*.

The *Sajha Boli* local version was launched through the production and broadcasting of 20 local versions on July 31, 2016. These 20 episodes were broadcast by an additional 20 broadcast partner FM radio stations in the 34 districts. The local partners produced and broadcast the second local episode on August 28 and the third local episode on September 25, bringing the total number of local *Sajha Boli* episodes produced during this reporting period to 60. The total number of local *Sajha Boli* broadcast during this period was 220.

The first local *Sajha Boli* episode was focused on introducing CS:MAP to audiences and explaining civil society as a concept. It also discussed the meaning of mutual accountability and why it was important in exercising social accountability and public oversight of the use of public resources and service delivery. The episode discussed the role of media and civil society in ensuring that public interest always remains a priority. The second episode focused on civil rights as enshrined in Nepal's new constitution and the different types of services that a citizen can expect from the government. The episode discussed problems and challenges in citizen access to such services, including the lack of coordination between the government, civil society, and media. The third episode focused on GESI and how communities need to ensure that principles of GESI are incorporated in the distribution of public services. The episode analyzed provisions made within policies and laws and actual practice, especially at the local level.

The *Sajha Boli* central version was launched through the production and broadcasting of the first episode on August 6, followed by the second episode on September 3, 2016. These episodes were broadcast nationally over Radio Nepal and from all 40 local radio station partners. In total, two central-level *Sajha Boli* episodes were produced with 82 broadcasts during this reporting period.

Both the central and local *Sajha Boli* episodes follow a magazine format with interviews, panel discussions, and call-in segments to publicize advocacy and reform efforts, monitor government performance, and highlight citizen engagement in social accountability. At the central and local level, the episodes address similar issues and themes; however, while the central episodes attempt to address issues from a national perspective, the local versions address similar issues from a local perspective. The two versions therefore complement each other by bringing local issues to a broader audience centrally, and taking central-level policy deliberations to audiences in remote locations.

Sajha Boli IVR and Youth Poll, an IVR questionnaire, were designed and launched to solicit feedback on the preliminary *Sajha Boli* episodes. Audiences were provided with a toll-free number that they could dial to access the IVR platform and then be directed to the *Sajha Boli* questionnaire or a Youth Poll designed to gauge youth interest in the concept and role of CSOs and existing social accountability mechanisms. The IVR feedback to *Sajha Boli* and the Youth Poll will both be analyzed and reported on in the first quarterly progress report of Year 2.

Activity 3.3.3: Radio Listener Groups (RLGs) to engage citizens in social accountability:

This activity did not take place in this reporting period. RLGs will be supported through Policy Advocacy, Government Engagement, and Oversight grants. Once grantees are identified, CS:MAP will facilitate initial conversations to link RLGs to the CSOs and media organizations, which will be managing these activities.

Activity 3.3.4: Youth engagement in social accountability:

To engage youth in social accountability, EA will utilize the well-established youth radio program, Saathi Sanga Manka Kura, or SSMK, translated as “Chatting with My Best Friend.” SSMK is a widely popular and trusted youth radio program that is designed to empower young people with knowledge, skills and awareness to deal with issues such as holding society and government accountable to addressing the needs of youth. A CAG, including youth participants, will be engaged to determine the themes and content to specifically address youth regarding social accountability. Two episodes of SSMK were produced and broadcast during this period from Radio Nepal and the 40 local partner FM radio stations, on August 20 and September 24, 2016. These two episodes were broadcast a total of 82 times. The SSMK episodes focused on improving the understanding of the concept and role of civil society among youth, including the type of civil society organizations that exist in local communities.

Result 3.4: Improved citizen engagement in media and Information and Communications Technology tools to strengthen public participation and oversight.

All activities under Result 3.4 will take place in the subsequent reporting periods.

4.2.4 Objective 4: Strengthen organizational capacity and sustainability of CSOs working in USAID priority sectors to advance local solutions

Objective 4 activities will take place in subsequent reporting periods once CS:MAP identifies and selects ISOs and 20 district-based CSOs and media organizations to receive organizational capacity-development support. However, in preparation for these activities, the CS:MAP Capacity Building team utilized USAID’s Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) and began tailoring it to the Nepali context and CS:MAP objectives. The tool will be finalized in time to facilitate participatory assessments with district-based grantees. In addition, the Capacity Building team initiated drafting of a customized Financial Sustainability Training Manual, which will be used to build financial sustainability capacity of selected partners.

5. Cross Cutting Interventions

5.1 Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

During Year 1, CS: MAP has made a concerted effort to incorporate GESI principles into its hiring practices. Job postings were designed to encourage women and minorities to apply, and the selection committee members factored in diversity concerns when making final recruitment decisions. As noted earlier, out of the recruited 30 positions, approximately 40% are female, 6.66% are Dalit, 6.66% are Madhesi, and 10% are indigenous/Janajati (this does not include Newars).

Through its recruitment process, FHI 360 hired a GESI Advisor, who undertook an internal GESI training session for the CS: MAP staff to improve staff understanding of GESI principles and ways to incorporate them into all project activities. The GESI Advisor also started a GESI assessment through desk research and peer consultation. The assessment will continue through Year 2 and the final assessment report will be produced in the second Quarter of Year 2.

Promoting and ensuring gender equality and social inclusion has been a major focus of CS: MAP since its inception. Adhering to the GESI principle, CS:MAP has encouraged the meaningful participation of women and minority groups. During the launch event of CS: MAP in

Kathmandu, 29% of participants were women, 5.2 % were Dalits, 11.8% were Madhesis and 3.8% were indigenous/Janajatis. Similarly, to ensure geographical inclusion, the project was launched in Nepalgunj where 20.7% were women, 5.6% were Dalits, 7.5% were Madhesis and 3.7% were indigenous/ Janajatis. Similarly, in the first bidder's conferences held in Kathmandu, 27.5% of participants were women. In the second conference, 32.6% were women.

CS:MAP strongly encouraged grant applications from organizations led by or representing interests of women and marginalized communities in response to its RFAs. The team carefully considered GESI concerns in the determining the evaluation process to ensure that the interests of women and marginalized groups are well represented.

CS:MAP partner EA has also designed a GESI tracker to analyze participation within its central-level *Sajha Boli* radio episodes. Starting next quarter, using this tracker, CS:MAP will be able to report on the gender and ethnicity composition of voices included within the central *Sajha Boli*. Using this tracker, the CS:MAP team plans to track and promote greater participation of women and minority groups within interviews, panel discussions and other segments included in the radio program. CS:MAP's GESI Advisor will continue to monitor and provide feedback on the radio episodes, too.

5.2 Youth Engagement

To facilitate youth engagement in CS:MAP activities, EA produced and broadcast two episodes of the widely popular youth radio program, SSMK. A poll has been designed and launched through EA's IVR system to gauge youth perceptions understanding of and confidence in the role of CSOs and media; youth knowledge and understanding of policy advocacy needs for youth; ways in which youth feel they can engage with the government in policy advocacy; and knowledge of social accountability / public oversight mechanisms. Poll results will be analyzed and presented in the first quarterly progress report in Year 2.

5.3 Use of Information, Communication, and Mobile Technologies

In Year 1, EA began the design preparation for the IVR and Short Message Service (SMS) system. The system uses a user-friendly platform that will support outbound and inbound messaging on radio programs to 1) provide critical information directly to target groups; 2) conduct surveys and polls on critical issues surrounding social accountability; 3) gather feedback from listeners; and 4) other uses as determined by grantees.

During this reporting period, an IVR questionnaire was designed and launched to solicit feedback on the preliminary *Sajha Boli* episodes. Audiences were provided with a toll-free number that they could dial to access the IVR platform and then be directed to the *Sajha Boli* questionnaire or the Youth Poll. The IVR feedback to *Sajha Boli* and the Youth Poll will both be analyzed and reported in the first quarterly progress report in Year 2.

6. Coordination and Collaboration

In this reporting period, CS:MAP team undertook coordination activities with various stakeholders:

GoN: The CS:MAP team met with government officials from the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, the Ministry of Information and Communications, and key parliamentarians

and politicians (such as Mr. Rabindra Adhikari, Ms. Sita Gurung, Mr. Dilli Chaudhary, Mr. Janak Joshi, Mr. Shakti Basnet, Mr. Jitendra Sonal), and briefed them about the CS:MAP objectives and priorities. The CS:MAP team will continue its meetings with key GoN champions over the next reporting periods.

USAID implementers: The CS:MAP team met with National Democratic Institute (NDI), Sajhedari/Pact Nepal, and Governance Facility (a joint mechanism of Danish, British and Swiss governments/missions) to explore areas of collaboration in Year 1 and beyond. CS:MAP will follow up with NDI to organize meetings and possible action plans with the parliamentary committee regarding parliamentary oversight on governance. Also, the six districts under *Sajhedari Bikaas* overlap with CS:MAP priority districts in the West, so our team coordinated meetings with the *Sajhedari Bikaas* project to create synergies and leverage ongoing good governance activities in these locations.

Local civil and media actors: In addition to this, the CS:MAP team held various individual meetings with key civil society and media sector actors in Nepal, especially those working on advocacy and governance at the national level. These include, among others, the Citizens' Campaign for Right to Information, the Freedom Forum, the Federation of Good Governance, Samudayik Sarathi, the Federation of Nepali Journalists, Martin Chautari, the NGO Federation Nepal, Women Act Nepal, Kathmandu Living Labs, the Niti Foundation, the Feminist Dalit Organization, the Dalit Welfare Association, and Backward Society Nepal. The purpose of these meetings was to familiarize these organizations with CS:MAP objectives, and to generate support and enthusiasm for the planned project activities within the civil society and media circles.

USAID and CS:MAP joint visit to Far West districts (Dadeldhura, Baitadi and Doti): Along with the project's AOR, CS:MAP's COP and DCOP conducted a six-day visit to Dadeldhura, Baitadi and Doti districts. The group held meetings with the Chief District Officers, District Technical Officers, Local Development Officers, Women's Development Officers, President of District Bar Associations, Chairpersons of NGO Federation, Chairpersons of FNJ, and representatives of different NGOs working in the districts. These meetings helped the team understand the dynamics of government and civil society relations in the districts, as well as civil society and media organizations' roles in service delivery at the district level. The team got insights into sustainability of donor-funded programs. Service delivery organizations have found challenges with the lack of clear reporting mechanisms and inadequate orientation on responsibilities compared to rights. CS:MAP plans to conduct additional visits in the next reporting period to continue such dialogue.

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

Activity Performance against the target: Monitoring Evaluation and Assessments

Results anticipated in the reporting period	Results achieved in the reporting period
<i>Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan (MELP) prepared and submitted</i> FHI 360 will develop a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan (MELP) collaboratively with CS:MAP partners EA and ICNL, and	The CS:MAP team held several workshops to develop the PMELP, building on the preliminary M&E Plan developed during CS:MAP project design. CS:MAP submitted the first draft of PMELP to USAID on July 01,

<p>USAID staff, and submit to USAID for approval by July 4. This MELP will include: final list of indicators, baselines (where available) and targets; plan for data collection, management, and data quality assessment (DQA).</p>	<p>2016. The CS:MAP team held meetings with AOR and USAID M&E focal persons on July 15, 2016, followed up with several rounds of informal discussions between July 15 to 19, 2016 to review the document. The comments and suggestions were incorporated and sent to USAID for approval on August 1, 2016, and approved on August 19, 2016.</p>
<p><i>Capacity building activity pertinent to M&E</i> To establish a common understanding of the key concepts of M&E process in CS:MAP, and to enhance and build the expertise around participatory M&E, CS:MAP M&E Manager will hold regular orientation sessions for the CS:MAP staff and grantees. With the limited number of staff on-board and grantees yet to be selected, one M&E orientation session is expected in this Work Plan period.</p>	<p>CS:MAP team held a joint orientation meeting on GESI and M&E for Nepalgunj based staff (including staff of Equal Access being deployed for CS:MAP) on September 18, 2016. M&E Manager highlighted the key components of approved CS:MAP Monitoring and Evaluation Plan like M&E approach, data flow structure, Data Quality Assessment (DQA), central database management system, Theory of Change and Results Framework etc. Main objective of this orientation session was to provide an opportunity to have similar understanding on key elements of the M&E system at CS:MAP.</p> <p>A total of 17 individuals (including CS:MAP AOR Krishna Pathak) made participation during this one-day long orientation session.</p>
<p><i>Develop CS:MAP M&E database Management System</i> This activity includes purchase of database management software and procurement of service for database management and data automation system based on the data needs. Data needs will be assessed; and data collection sheets will be developed and brought into use for regular data collection. After some field tests of the data automation system, the process of entering data into the system will begin by the end of this Work Plan period.</p>	<p>CS:MAP explored options for a user-friendly data management and reporting software to facilitate monitoring and evaluation of CS:MAP's activities per USAID data disaggregation and geocoding requirements. After a series of discussions, CS:MAP decided to customize Microsoft Office 365's web-based platform, SharePoint, taking into consideration the Nepali context and CS:MAP's requirements. The PGIMS database management system called Performance and Geographic Information Management System (PGIMS) is being established based on CS:MAP's Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan to support monitoring program impact, progress on indicators, and producing geographic information materials about the CS:MAP. This system includes entire fields of information required for reporting purposes and will be available in a password protected</p>

	<p>web-based format accessible to the project's AOR and Alternate AOR.</p> <p>A beta version of the PGIMS system uses SharePoint lists to demonstrate how partner and grantee-provided data will be aggregated for M&E Performance Indicator Tracking reports. Menus reflect the type of data that will be provided by partners and grantees, as well as data that can be entered manually by the admin user. Menus and the data requirements will be fleshed out and finalized by working in consultation with the team members in the next reporting period.</p>
<p><i>Assessment of public perception about media and CSOs</i></p> <p>As mentioned under Result 1.2 (Activity 1.2.1), FHI 360 will identify a local research firm in September 2016 to conduct an opinion poll to 1) gauge public perceptions of civil society's and media's role; 2) assess confidence in transparency, effectiveness, and governance; and 3) measure the extent to which women and minority groups feel civil society and media represent them. FHI 360 will utilize the data collected through USAID's most recent perception polls, and fill data gaps as needed.</p>	<p><i>Assessment of public perception about media and CSOs:</i> In September, CS:MAP initiated a process for identifying a local research firm to conduct an opinion poll that can serve as the baseline for improving public understanding and confidence in the role of CSOs and the media. The project published a RFA call in national newspapers and websites for wide dissemination.</p>

In addition to the above mentioned activities, the following additional activities were carried out during the reporting period:

GIS and data reporting requirements: CS:MAP's DCOP and M&E Manager participated in a half-day training on May 23, 2016 with USAID's Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Project, and worked on mapping the geographic distribution of CS:MAP's planned activities.

Further, the project's COP and M&E Manager also participated in a half-day training on AidTracker Plus on July 18, 2016 at the MEL project office. This training enhanced skills and knowledge on handling a cloud-based tool called AidTracker Plus that supports data collection, collation and analysis with a specific location and/or geocode.

Rapid assessment of existing CSO and media legal framework, stakeholder consultations and formulation of recommendations: As previously mentioned, through desk research, ICNL has identified approximately fifteen major laws and regulations governing the operations and activities of CSOs and media organizations. Each of these laws and regulations have been analyzed in light of international standards and best practices. In addition, during their visit to Nepal in June, August and September, ICNL experts conducted approximately 30 key informant interviews. They conducted 20 key informant interviews in June and ten in August and early

September (*detailed in Activity 1.1.1*). The preliminary findings of this research were presented during the stakeholders' conference held on September 27-28, 2016 in Kathmandu (*detailed in Activity 1.1.2*). Recommendations from the Kathmandu Conference will further be analyzed and presented in the conferences outside of Kathmandu in the next Work Plan period. In addition to this, FHI 360 has initiated the process of grants to fund advocacy efforts on improving enabling environment (*detailed in Activity 1.1.3*).

8. Activity Progress Summary

(Annex 2 of this document)

9. Priorities for Year 2 (Oct 1, 2016 – Sep 30, 2017)

- Hold three-four stakeholder forums in the districts and summarize and disseminate research and stakeholder consultation results for action;
- Finalize the process to provide grants for advocacy efforts focused on improving the enabling environment (5-10 CSOs and media organizations);
- Hold policy seminars and commission research studies to facilitate sustained government-civil society dialogue and inform regulatory reform as part of ongoing technical assistance to the parliament, GoN and civil society stakeholders on policy and regulatory reform;
- Carry out an assessment of public perception about media and CSOs;
- Launch an outreach campaign to improve public understanding and confidence in CSOs and the media;
- Conduct joint workshops to improve CSO-media relations;
- Improve self-regulation and internal governance of the CSO sector and media sector;
- Hold a conference on self-regulation and internal governance best practices for civil society and the media;
- Identify CSOs and media organizations to coordinate with the GoN and implement constructive advocacy strategies;
- Identify and train ISOs to provide advocacy and government engagement capacity building to target CSOs and media organizations;
- Conduct training/orientation for ISOs on usage of Advocacy Readiness Index;
- ISOs design and implement advocacy and government engagement coaching and training based on CSO and media organizations' needs;
- Form Public Private Working Groups (PPWGs);
- Conduct *Sajha Sabhas*, or Public Forums;
- Identify *Shreejanshil Shakas* (innovation centers) to serve as CSO-media collaboration hubs;
- Build research capacity for CSOs and media organizations;
- Organize study visits for media partners in Kathmandu for investigative journalism;
- Provide a research fellowship for CSO partners at Kathmandu-based think-tanks or research organization;
- Conduct Advocacy and Monitoring/Oversight Training for media organizations;
- Conduct Journalist Safety and Security Training for media organizations;
- Conduct Investigative Journalism Training for media organizations;
- Adapt the GGB to the Nepali context and CS:MAP needs;
- Hold preliminary meetings with pilot VDCs and local level officials to introduce the GGB;
- Identify potential VDCs to pilot the GGB;
- Identify ISOs/CSOs and build their capacity to facilitate the GGB;
- Identify a GGB monitoring committee to collect base line data;
- Conduct Social Accountability Trainings;
- Hold a total of 84 CAG meetings during the work plan period;

- Carry out *Sajha Boli* program production, broadcasting and audience interactivity;
- Engage youth in social accountability;
- Conduct the annual SMS My Lawmaker campaign;
- Organize public service delivery photo exhibits;
- Conduct organizational capacity assessments with selected organizations;
- Develop Financial Sustainability Plans;
- Develop customized organizational improvement plans;
- Develop and submit the Year 3 Work Plan to USAID for approval.

10.Success Story

Not applicable in this reporting period.

11.Challenges and Mitigation Measures

CS:MAP partner ICNL was unable to hire its Legal and Policy Advisor as initially planned due to uncertainty regarding ICNL's legal status. Specifically, ICNL remains unsure of whether it is required to register with the Social Welfare Council under Nepali Law before hiring a long-term host national employee, which entails tax compliance on behalf of the organization. As a temporary solution, ICNL hired a local legal expert as a short-term consultant, who is assisting ICNL in resolving the registration and hiring questions, while also helping ICNL meet its Year 1 program targets.

Despite this delay, ICNL has continued its work under Objective 1 through its international legal experts, and remains on-track to complete its targets and deliverables, including completing the rapid assessment of the civil society and media laws and regulations and the planned stakeholders' conference in Kathmandu in September 2016.

Frequent electricity outages in Nepalgunj have remained a major challenge. This has been mitigated to some extent after the purchase and installation of a 20 kVA generator set at the Nepalgunj office. Attempts at securing a 3-phase supply is ongoing. Although securing a 3-phase supply will not mitigate problems arising from power outages, it will allow for air-conditioning equipment to be operated from the main power supply instead of only relying on generator supply for this purpose.

Two trained radio producers from the 20 production partner FM radio stations left their jobs at the radio stations. EA responded by conducting on-the-spot orientation for one alternative producer at one station and a phone orientation for another. It is possible that more trained producers will leave their jobs in future. EA hopes to mitigate this problem by including two producers from each production partner FM radio station in future trainings to ensure institutional knowledge in the event that one person leaves.

The team has found that ensuring GESI within local CAG meetings can be a challenge. EA will work with the local program production partner FM radio stations to ensure that participation in

future CAG meetings is more inclusive. To do so, EA will design a rapid survey for local station staff to gauge barriers that prohibit the participation of women and minority groups. EA will also visit a few sample radio stations where there was minimal diversity at the last CAG meetings and conduct interviews to understand why this was so. Based on these findings, EA will design strategies that will enable greater inclusion within forthcoming CAG and other local level meetings.

12.Lessons Learned

- Project launch events and bidders' conferences serve as an important platform to reach a significant number of stakeholders; convey the message of inclusion, fairness, and transparency in project activities; and begin building trust and cooperation among the project's key stakeholders;
- When bidders' conferences or information sessions are held in-person and immediately after open calls, the project will receive a greater number of applicants and higher quality applications;
- Accepting only hard-copy applications in response to the RFAs preserves the integrity of the application process. For the first two RFAs, CS:MAP accepted the applications by email, but later the project realized that acceptance of electronic submissions would not be in compliance with the sealed application requirements. For the third RFA and the RFA for a perception survey, CS:MAP has only accepted hard copy submissions or files saved on a CD.
- Most stakeholders perceive the project as highly relevant both for its national and local level objectives. They also have high expectations for the project. As such, throughout the project period, it will be important to prioritize issues and sectors in a focused way in order to get concrete and meaningful results.
- The stakeholders conference on legal frameworks for CSOs and media increased discussion on CSO in Nepal. The discussions also helped in framing the scope of works of the grantees under CS:MAP Strengthening Enabling Environment Grants Program.

13. Annexes

Annex 1: Detailed selection criteria and a list of selected FM stations

Radio Station Name & Address	Proximity & access for community reporters & other stakeholders ³ (5)	Local language proficiency – produced/ broadcast in one or more major local language ⁴ (10)	Credibility assessed through talking with community members ⁵ (20)	Credibility assessed through assessment of financial management system ⁶ (10)	Financial soundness assessed through revenue streams – do they have non-donor funded revenue streams? ⁷ (10)	Listener base – diversity of population served / as well as existence of minority groups ⁸ (20)	Gender & Social Inclusion (GESI) compliant – composition of management, board & staff; addressed through policy ⁹ (15)	Technical facilities for quality production and broadcast / at least two studios for simultaneous production & broadcast ¹⁰ (10)

Use additional sheets as required; attach comments related to scoring in additional blank sheets attached to this scoring sheet

³ fill station mapping form through either site visit or telephone call with station management and local community member to assess physical proximity or geographical ease of access

⁴ fill station mapping form through either site visit or telephone call with station management and local community member to assess promotion of local languages

⁵ physical meeting or phone call with community members to assess how local people assess it in terms of independence, access, participatory approach, community partnership, promotion of local issues

⁶ clean and transparent financial system – ask if they conduct annual audits, who does it for them, what kind of findings emerge, are they ready to share audit reports if that is necessary? what kind of internal control systems are in place – speak to the finance person if necessary; the responses will give an indication

⁷ through actual site visit or phone call with station management, assess the type and diversity of revenue streams they have

⁸ through actual site visit or phone call with community members

⁹ fill station mapping form through either site visit or telephone call with station management, ask to see policy if they say they address GESI in policy

¹⁰ fill station mapping form through either site visit or telephone call with station management, try and gauge technical soundness, including ability to access or download EA programs via Internet

CS: MAP Production and Broadcast Partner FM Stations				
S.no.	Districts Cluster	Production Partner FM Station	Broadcast Partner FM station	No. of Radio
1.	Kailali & Kanchanpur	Dinesh FM, Dhangadhi	Suklaphanta FM, Mahendranagar, Tikapur FM, Tikapur	1+2
2.	Banke & Bardiya	Nepalgunj FM, Banke, Nepalgunj	Gurbaba FM, Bardiya	1+1
3.	Surkhet & Dailekh	Radio Bheri, Birendranagar, Surkhet	Dhrubatar FM, Dailekh	1+1
4.	Dang & Salyan	Swargadwari FM, Ghorahi Dang	Hamro Pahucha FM, Tulsipur Dang, Radio Highway-Deukhuri, Radio Sarada, Salyan	1+3
5.	Dadeldhura & Baitadi	Radio Nigalasaini FM, Baitadi	Sudur Awaj, Dadeldhura	1+1
6.	Doti & Achham	Ramaroshan FM, Acham	Tribeni FM, Doti	1+1
7.	Jajarkot	Hamro Paila, Jajarkot, Khalanga		1
8.	Rukum	Sani Bheri FM, Rukum		1
9.	Rolpa & Pyuthan	Mahila Aawaj, Pyuthan	Radio Rolpa, Rolpa	1+1
10.	Argakhachi & Kapilvastu	Samanta FM, Kapilbastu	Suryodaya FM, Arghakhachi, Paribartan FM, Kapilbastu	1+2
11.	Palpa & Gulmi	Radio Madanpokhara, Palpa	Radio Resunga, Gulmi	1+1
EQ Recovery Districts				
1.	Ramechhap, Sindhuli & Okhaldhunga	Hajurko Radio, Ramechhap	Siddhababa FM, Sindhuli Okhaldhunga Radio, Okhaldhunga	1+2
2.	Dolaka	Radio Sailung, Charikot, Dolakha		1
3.	Sindhupalchok	Radio Sindhu FM, Sindhupalchok	Radio Melamchi	1+1
4.	Bhaktapur, Kavre	Prime FM, Kabhre, Banepa	Janasanchar FM, Bhaktapur,	1+1
5.	Lalitpur & Kathmandu	Ujyalo FM, Lalitpur	Mero FM, Kathmandu	1+1
6.	Rasuwa	Langtang FM,		1
7.	Nuwakot & Dhading	Nuwakot FM, Nuwakot	Radio Dhading, Dhading	1+1
8.	Gorkha	Radio Gorkha, Gorkha	Radio Barpak	1+1
9.	Makawanpur	Radio Thaha Sanchar		1

Production Radio **20**
Broadcast Radio **20**

Annex 2: CS:MAP Year 1 Activity Summary



CSMAP APR_Year
I_Activity Matrix.xlsx

Annex 3: CS:MAP Sections Against Annual Progress Report Requirements



Sections against
APR_ Requirement_C